

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
FREDERICK SENIOR CENTER
July 12, 2010**

DOA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Rae Ann Butler	Susan M. Ramsburg Recording Sec	Earl S. Beck, PhD	Robert Wannemacher	
Cristina Donahue- Taylor	Carolyn True	Jim Judd		
David Gray, Comm		Margaret Nusbaum		
Millard Haines				
Lloyd Hoover				
Diane Julian				
Ona M. John Kile				
Carol Krimm, Alderman				
Louise Lynch				
Patricia McGill				
Burt Shawver				
Virginia Skelley				
Stephen Wilhide				

- I. **Call to Order – Louise Lynch, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Louise welcomed all attendees. Hal Ehart is back as a new member of this commission.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the May 10, 2010 meeting were approved. All were in favor.
- IV. **Commissioner's Report** – Commissioner Gray commented that the county is in a new budget year. The threat of the county assuming responsibility of the teacher pensions is still an issue. The state delegates would be the individuals that should be contacted to give your opinion. Delegates who attended the USM rally in January were not in favor of shifting this responsibility to the county.

There was mention of property tax bills being higher than last year. Once new assessments are completed property taxes will likely go down. This will also cause revenue for the county to go down.

Alderman's Report – Alderman Krimm reported that other counties have a Legacy of Leaders program. This is a program where retired seniors give back to the community in various roles. It would be an excellent program to get started in Frederick county. Carol will gather specifics for the program and report back to the commission.

- V. **Discussion concerning self evaluation document, All** - There was some discussion on the comments from the self evaluation document. Not all were able to bring this document to today's meeting. This was the first year that a report was presented to the BoCC. There are other monthly meetings that municipality officials and county officials attend which commission members could attend also. City officials would also be interested in a yearly report from this commission. There are opportunities for this commission to inform the public of its proceedings via newspaper articles in the *Senior Living* or *Gazette*.

The mission of the CoA is on the top of each monthly agenda. This commission is better at task specific actions. We need to ensure that our members are ready and willing to work on issues. Everyone's participation is required and expected. Some members on the commission are currently working with individuals in the local health care industry to encourage an increase in geriatricians and physicians accepting new MC patients. These members will keep the commission informed of any developments as they occur.

Information from the DoA regarding services provided and services needed is very important to this commission. The written report from Carolyn is very helpful as well as the verbal report which emphasizes pertinent information. It is difficult for members of this commission to get information regarding senior's needs without utilizing DoA staff. It is also problematic when seniors in need are not aware of services

available to them. Caregivers of seniors are another point of contact that may be easier to reach. A consistent resource guide in a local newspaper would be very helpful. This may be a task best handled by someone in the DoA. The DoA has had an increase in individuals looking for services. Call types are tracked by Information and Assistance staff.

There was some discussion about whether operating policies and procedure documents are necessary for specific functions of this commission. Procedures for the nominating committee and a new member policy would be very helpful for consistency. It would be helpful if new members were available to give insight on what is needed to new members. A brochure is being developed to explain the history, actions, and mission of this commission. The Older Americans Act mandated this commission, but did not include any guidelines. It would be a good idea to add the strategic plan to the website.

USM update, Ginny Skelley – There was no meeting in June. It is a quiet time right now as the legislation session is over for this year. Ginny shared a booklet, *Internet Safety Tips for Seniors*, which was distributed by a guest speaker from Verizon at a previous meeting she attended. Yearly dues of \$50 are now due to remain a member of the USM. The invoice will be covered by the DoA this year. Ginny is on a subcommittee for the yearly USM rally.

VI. Plan activities for the coming year – All – Deferred.

Discussion concerning CoA members attendance at candidates forums, All - Deferred.

Discussion on BoCC fall Senior Forum with current and new board members, All – There was some discussion about the possibility of having a senior forum this fall. It would be at the DoA building and would be on either November 23 or November 30 which is after the election and before the new BoCC are sworn in. The elected BoCC and other elected officials, not their representatives, will be invited. This is a good time since the budget process would just be starting. Four to six questions would need to be composed to be presented to the BoCC. Last year's forum was successful. It is a good opportunity for the BoCC, CoA, and public to meet and share topics of interest specific to the senior population. It was decided that November 30 would be the preferred date and the time would be 1:00pm – 3:00pm. A small committee was selected to start work on planning this event.

Area Plan discussion, Carolyn True – The Area Plan is a four year plan that is submitted to the MDoA every year. It is revised every year

except the fourth year when it is rewritten. This year is the third year so it is revised only. The 2008 version and the 2011 version were shared with this commission previous to today's meeting. New initiatives and changes are included in the 2011 narrative. New initiatives include Centers without Walls and purchase of a vehicle to transport meals. The ombudsman program will be receiving a \$3,500 decrease in funding. The ombudsman program is one of several mandated programs so funding will be shifted from other areas to cover this reduction. There was also a reduction in the I&A program of \$2000 which is also a mandated program. A copy of the proposed budget was shared at today's meeting. Current and pending contracts are also included in the area plan. This plan tells the state how we are providing the services which are mandated as well as services that are not mandated. The county provides the majority of funds received for programming. Funds are also provided by state, federal, and participant contributions. Next year's plan will be completely rewritten so it will be more complex.

VII. Director's Report – Carolyn True

The monthly report for June 2010 was distributed. This report includes stats for the DoA programs.

The DoA works with the diabetes coalition and the health department to provide diabetes education programs and health screenings. There is also an occupational therapist who is very interested in volunteering with the senior centers and the MOW program.

The MDoA provided ARRA funds to create/save a job or use for one time purchases for food programs. Some of the funds have been used for breakfast programs in Emmitsburg, emergency meal program, and guest speakers. There are remaining ARRA funds which the DoA would like to use to purchase a temperature controlled vehicle which would allow more flexibility in the food programs. The hold up to the idea is a driver for the vehicle. There is no funding for a staff driver so a large reserve of volunteers would need to be developed.

Most areas are status quo. Numbers in the caregiver program have increased. I&A numbers have remained steady. There has been a decrease in the number of congregate meals. A food bid is being prepared for the congregate and MOW food program. It would be very cost effective to have the detention center prepare the meals, but they currently do not have the staffing to provide meals.

There was a tremendous turnout for the healthcare reform presentation on June 14. All chairs were taken by the time the program started.

7/12/2010

Announcements, All –

Louise announced that the paperwork for the 501(c)(3) Friends of MOW has been received by the IRS. The group is now allowed to start fund raising. The next step is to file as a charitable organization with the state.

VIII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg,
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

August 9, 2010 - Commission on Aging, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm at the Frederick Senior Center, Frederick, MD 21702

August 30, 2010 COA Executive Meeting, 1:00 pm at the Frederick Senior Center